



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Substitute Bill No. 1401

* SB01401FIN__050107__ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF CONNECTICUT'S
TRANSPORTATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 13b-79p of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Transportation shall implement the
4 following strategic transportation projects and initiatives:

5 (1) Restoring commuter rail service on the New Haven-Hartford-
6 Springfield line, including providing shuttle bus service between the
7 rail line and Bradley International Airport;

8 (2) Implementing the New Britain-Hartford busway, subject to the
9 availability of federal funds;

10 (3) Rehabilitating rail passenger coaches for use on Shore Line East,
11 the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield line and the branch lines;

12 (4) Developing a new commuter rail station between New Haven
13 and Milford;

14 (5) Meeting the costs of capital improvements on the branch lines,
15 not to exceed forty-five million dollars;

16 (6) Meeting the capital costs of parking and rail station
17 improvements on the New Haven Line, Shore Line East and the
18 branch lines, not to exceed sixty million dollars;

19 (7) Funding the local share of the Southeast Area Transit federal
20 pilot project;

21 (8) Completing the Norwich Intermodal Transit Hub Roadway
22 improvements;

23 (9) Conducting environmental planning and assessment for the
24 expansion of Interstate 95 between Branford and the Rhode Island
25 border;

26 (10) Completing preliminary design and engineering for Interstate
27 84 widening between Waterbury and Danbury;

28 (11) Funding the Commercial Vehicle Information System Network;

29 (12) Purchasing not less than twenty-four electric rail cars for use on
30 the Shore Line East commuter rail services;

31 (13) Improving bike access to and storage facilities at transportation
32 centers;

33 [(12)] (14) Funding the capital costs of the greater Hartford highway
34 infrastructure improvements in support of economic development;
35 [and]

36 [(13)] (15) Completing a rail link to the port of New Haven;

37 (16) Specifying, funding and purchasing new rolling stock for use
38 on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield line;

39 (17) Funding the Waterbury Intermodal Transportation Center;

40 (18) Constructing a bus maintenance and storage facility for the
41 Windham and Torrington Regional Transit Districts;

42 (19) Implementing the safety improvements described in phases I
43 and II of the Tweed Master Plan within the planned three to five-year
44 period;

45 (20) Developing and funding a comprehensive analysis of the
46 potential for enhanced rail freight service to and through Connecticut,
47 including, but not limited to (A) the market for enhanced rail services;
48 (B) the impact of enhanced rail freight service on traffic and
49 congestion; (C) obstacles to enhanced rail freight service and ways to
50 address them; and (D) the impact of enhanced rail freight service on
51 commuter rail service, including scheduling and track availability,
52 safety and physical infrastructure;

53 (21) Funding a comprehensive study of electronic tolls and
54 congestion pricing as a method of managing transportation demand
55 and raising revenue;

56 (22) Funding a comprehensive study that will inventory and
57 prioritize state-wide dredging needs and develop an estimate of the
58 nonfederal funding required for each such project;

59 (23) Designating three pre-approved transit oriented development
60 sites and provide funding, expertise and resources to ensure successful
61 development of such sites;

62 (24) Funding the phase I and II capital improvements on Shore Line
63 East, as recommended in the Department of Transportation's report
64 "Expanding Rail Service on Shore Line East" to expand service, create
65 weekend service and extend service to New London; and

66 (25) Funding a comprehensive study of a transportation center in
67 New London.

68 (b) The commissioner shall evaluate and plan the implementation of
69 the following projects:

70 (1) Improving Routes 2 and 2A in the towns of Preston, North
71 Stonington and Montville;

72 (2) Upgrading the Pequot Bridge in Montville;

73 (3) Evaluating rail links to other ports;

74 (4) Supporting and encouraging the dredging of the state's
75 commercial ports;

76 (5) Developing a second rail passenger station between New Haven
77 and Milford; and

78 (6) Expanding Route 9.

79 (c) The commissioner shall, in consultation with the board,
80 recommend the implementation of additional transportation
81 improvement projects. Upon the approval of the Governor and
82 allocation by the State Bond Commission, the proceeds of bonds issued
83 pursuant to section 13b-79q may be used to support such projects.

84 [(d) The commissioner shall identify obstacles to improved rail
85 service on Shore Line East, including, but not limited to, increased
86 frequency of service, reverse commute service and weekend service.
87 The commissioner shall report his findings and recommendations to
88 the General Assembly not later than January 1, 2007.]

89 [(e)] (d) The commissioner shall ensure that the state's
90 transportation plans, including, but not limited to, the master
91 transportation plan, are consistent with the strategy adopted pursuant
92 to section 13b-57g.

93 [(f)] (e) The rail station and parking initiative identified in
94 subsection (a) of this section shall include at least four Shore Line East
95 stations east of New Haven.

96 [(g)] (f) The commissioner is authorized to enter into grant and cost-
97 sharing agreements with local governments, transit districts, regional
98 planning agencies and councils of governments in connection with the
99 implementation of projects funded pursuant to subsections (a) and (c)
100 of this section.

101 [(h) If, within two years of July 1, 2006,] (g) Not later than June 6,
102 2008, if the Department of Transportation is unable to implement the
103 intermodal connection between port and rail facilities at the port of
104 New Haven pursuant to subdivision [(13)] (15) of subsection (a) of this
105 section, the commissioner shall submit a report, pursuant to section 11-
106 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
107 cognizance of matters relating to transportation and finance, revenue
108 and bonding. Such report shall describe (1) the reasons the connection
109 cannot be completed, and (2) alternative ways to facilitate intermodal
110 shipping at the port.

111 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 13b-78m of the general statutes is
112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
113 *1, 2007*):

114 (a) On and after January 1, 2008, and terminating on June 30, 2015, a
115 surcharge [of one dollar per trip] on the New Haven Line is imposed
116 on each ticket for travel, either originating or terminating in the state.
117 The Commissioner of Transportation shall, by regulations adopted in
118 accordance with chapter 54, determine the method by which the
119 surcharge shall be applied to weekly and monthly commutation
120 tickets.

121 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 13b-79q of the general statutes is
122 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
123 *1, 2007*):

124 (b) The proceeds of the sale of the bonds to the extent hereinafter
125 stated shall be used for the purpose of payment of the transportation
126 costs, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 13b-75, with respect to (1)
127 strategic transportation projects identified in subsection (a) of section
128 13b-79p, as amended by this act; (2) transportation improvement
129 projects approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 13b-79p, as
130 amended by this act; and sections 19, 24 and 25 of public act 06-136*;
131 and (3) project planning pursuant to sections 19, 24 and 25 of public act
132 06-136*, which projects and uses are hereby found and determined to

133 be in furtherance of one or more of the authorized purposes for the
134 issuance of special tax obligation bonds set forth in section 13b-74.

135 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The State Bond Commission
136 shall have power, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4 to 8,
137 inclusive, of this act, to authorize the issuance of special tax obligation
138 bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the
139 aggregate, not exceeding forty million dollars.

140 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent hereinafter
141 stated, shall be used for the purpose of payment of transportation
142 costs, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 13b-75 of the general
143 statutes, with respect to the projects and uses hereinafter described.
144 Said projects and uses are hereby found and determined to be in
145 furtherance of one or more of the authorized purposes for the issuance
146 of special tax obligation bonds set forth in section 13b-74 of the general
147 statutes, for the Department of Transportation for the Bureau of Public
148 Transportation:

149 (1) Parking garage at the Stamford Transportation Center, including
150 rights-of-way, alternative temporary parking, other property
151 acquisition and related projects, not exceeding thirty-five million
152 dollars; and

153 (2) Capital improvements to rail stations on the New Haven Line,
154 the branch lines and Shore Line East, not exceeding five million
155 dollars.

156 (3) Capital funds for the acquisition of new clean diesel buses for
157 use by transit districts to increase frequency and reach of our transit
158 system.

159 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) None of the bonds issued
160 pursuant to sections 4 to 8, inclusive, of this act, shall be authorized
161 except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has
162 been filed with it (1) a request for such authorization, which is signed
163 by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or by or on

164 behalf of such state officer, department or agency and stating such
165 terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may
166 require, and (2) any capital development impact statement and any
167 human services facility location statement required to be filed with the
168 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section
169 4b-23 of the general statutes, any advisory report regarding the state
170 conservation and development policies plan required pursuant to
171 section 16a-31 of the general statutes, and any statement regarding
172 farmland required pursuant to subsection (g) of section 3-20 of the
173 general statutes and section 22-6 of the general statutes, provided the
174 State Bond Commission may authorize the bonds without a finding
175 that the reports and statements required by this section have been filed
176 with it if the commission authorizes the secretary of the commission to
177 accept the reports and statements on its behalf. No funds derived from
178 the sale of bonds authorized by the commission without a finding that
179 the reports and statements required by this section have been filed
180 with it shall be allotted by the Governor for any project until the
181 reports and statements required by this section, with respect to the
182 project, have been filed with the secretary of the commission.

183 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) For the purposes of sections 4 to
184 8, inclusive, of this act, each request filed as provided in section 5 of
185 this act for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for
186 which the proceeds of the sale of the bonds are to be used and
187 expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required
188 pursuant to section 5 of this act, include the recommendation of the
189 person signing the request as to the extent to which federal, private or
190 other money then available or thereafter to be made available for costs
191 in connection with any such project should be added to the state
192 money available or becoming available from the proceeds of bonds
193 and temporary notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the
194 proceeds of bonds. If the request includes a recommendation that some
195 amount of the federal, private or other money should be added to the
196 state money, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond
197 Commission at the time of authorization of the bonds, the amount of

198 the federal, private or other money then available or thereafter to be
199 made available for costs in connection with the project shall be added
200 to the state money.

201 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Any balance of proceeds of the
202 sale of the bonds authorized for the projects or purposes of section 4 of
203 this act in excess of the aggregate costs of all the projects so authorized
204 shall be used in the manner set forth in sections 13b-74 to 13b-77,
205 inclusive, of the general statutes, and in the proceedings of the State
206 Bond Commission respecting the issuance and sale of the bonds.

207 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The bonds issued pursuant to
208 sections 4 to 8, inclusive, of this act, shall be special obligations of the
209 state and shall neither be payable from nor charged upon any funds
210 other than revenues of the state pledged therefor in subsection (b) of
211 section 13b-61 of the general statutes, and section 13b-69 of the general
212 statutes, or such other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged
213 therefor. The bonds shall neither be payable from nor charged upon
214 any funds other than the pledged revenues or such other receipts,
215 funds or money as may be pledged therefor. The state or any political
216 subdivision of the state shall not be subject to any liability thereon,
217 except to the extent of the pledged revenues or such other receipts,
218 funds or money as may be pledged therefor. The bonds shall be issued
219 under and in accordance with the provisions of sections 13b-74 to 13b-
220 77, inclusive, of the general statutes.

221 Sec. 9. Subsection (j) of section 13b-57g of the general statutes is
222 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
223 *October 1, 2007*):

224 (j) Not later than January 1, 2007, and biennially thereafter, the
225 board shall review and, if necessary, revise the strategy adopted
226 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. A report describing any
227 revisions and the reasons for them shall be submitted to the Governor
228 and, pursuant to section 11-4a, the General Assembly. Such report
229 shall include a prioritized list of projects which the board, in

230 consultation with the commissioner, determines are necessary to
231 implement the recommended strategy, including the estimated capital
232 and operating costs and time frame of such projects. Not later than
233 January 31, 2007, and biennially thereafter, the joint standing
234 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
235 relating to transportation, finance, revenue and bonding and planning
236 and development shall meet with the Commissioners of
237 Transportation and Economic and Community Development, the
238 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the chairperson of
239 the Transportation Strategy Board and such other persons as they
240 deem appropriate to consider the report required by this subsection.

241 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
242 "long lead time item" means transportation equipment or rolling stock
243 which (1) has a capital cost of more than one million dollars; and (2)
244 will not be delivered until at least two years after the adoption of the
245 resolution required by subsection (b) of this section.

246 (b) The Commissioner of Transportation may, with the approval of
247 the Governor and the State Bond Commission, enter into contracts for
248 long lead time items prior to the allocation of any or all bond funds for
249 such purpose, provided sufficient funds have been authorized and will
250 be available for use at the time when payment is contractually
251 required. The State Bond Commission resolution of approval shall
252 specify the item or items to be purchased, the time or times when
253 payment will be due and payable, and the source of funds for such
254 purpose. No funds so identified shall be used for any other purpose.

255 Sec. 11. Section 13b-79x of the general statutes is repealed and the
256 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

257 Not later than the day on which the Governor's proposed biennial
258 budget is required to be submitted to the General Assembly pursuant
259 to section 4-71, the Governor shall recommend to the General
260 Assembly (1) any projects which the Governor believes are necessary
261 to implement the [recommended] transportation strategy adopted

262 pursuant to section 13b-57g; and (2) a financing plan for such projects.

263 Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) During the fiscal years ending June 30,
 264 2008, and June 30, 2009, the Commissioner of Transportation is
 265 authorized, subject to the availability of funds, to make a grant-in-aid
 266 of up to three million dollars per year in support of the Southeastern
 267 Connecticut Tourist Transit System, provided that such grant is
 268 matched by equal funding from nonstate sources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	13b-79p
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	13b-78m(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	13b-79q(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	13b-57g(j)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	13b-79x
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

ENV *Joint Favorable*

FIN *Joint Favorable*